Bhutan Sikkim Darjeeling Tour

16 Days tour to Bhutan, Sikkim, Kalingpong, Darjeeling, Gangtok

Bhutan: 07 Nights/ 08 Days / Sikkim, Darjeeling, Kalingpong: 07 Nights/ 08 Days

Duration: 16 days

Price: $3184

Rating: 3 Star

Group Size: Minimum Pax - 2

Grade: Strenuous

Destination: India

Activity: Tour in Nepal

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival at Paro (by Druk Air) - Transfer to hotel.

On a clear day, the flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular of all mountain flights. You will see major Himalayan peaks such as Everest, Kanchenjunga, and Makalu, and then on the final approach to Paro Bhutan's own snowy peaks, Chomolhari and Jichu Drake will come into view. Bhutan's first gift to you as you disembark from the aircraft will be cool, clean fresh mountain air. After clearing customs and visa control you are met by your Bhutan representative, and then drive you the short distance to Paro town. After lunch visit Ta Dzong, an ancient watchtower, which now houses the National Museum. This dzong was converted into the National Museum in 1968. The museum boasts antique thangka, textiles, weapons and armor, household objects and a rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts. We also visit the Rinpung Dzong, built in the 17th century to defend the valley against Tibetan invaders. The dzong is now used as an administration center and school for monks. The evening ends with a walk through Paro's main shopping district. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 2: Paro valley sightseeing & hike to Taktsang Monastery.

After breakfast drives the winding road to the Drukgyal Dzong, the ruined fort, which was once defended this valley from Tibetan invasions. Mount Chomolhari, can be seen the on a clear day from Drukgyal village. You can visit a typical Bhutanese Farm House of a local family for a close-up view of everyday Bhutanese life. We then drive to Shari to hike up (or horse ride) to the Taktsang monastery (Tiger's nest). The horse rides up or hikes to the cafeteria will take around one and half hour. At the view point enjoy the stunning view of the monastery, where Guru Padmasambhava landed on the back of a tigress in the 8th century. After lunch at the café walk back to the road point. After lunch at the cafeteria walk back to the road point. On our way back to the hotel we visit Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest temple in Bhutan built in the 7th century. Evening at leisure. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 3: Paro - Thimphu. Afternoon Thimphu valley sightseeing.

Morning drive to Thimphu, the modern capital of Bhutan. The drive will take around 1½ hour. Thimphu has a population of about 98,500. The town is made up of just three lines of shops and is the only capital in the world without traffic lights. Enroute visit

Simtokha Dzong. Check-In at the hotel and lunch served. After lunch visit, National Memorial Chorten built in honor of our late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk and the Dupthop Lhakhang one of the few surviving nunneries in Bhutan. We then visit the National Library, stocked with ancient Buddhist manuscripts, and the Art & Crafts School where traditional art is still kept alive through instructions in the art of painting Thangkas (sacred Buddhist religious scrolls). After lunch, we drive to the Traditional Medicine Institute where medicines are prepared according to ancient practices and to Lungten Zampa to visit the Bhutanese Handmade Paper Factory. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 4: Thimphu valley sightseeing - Punakha.

In the morning visit the Textile Museum, where the art of traditional weaving is still kept alive and preserved through exhibition and has a good collection of old textiles which are rich in its color and design, then visit the Folk Heritage Museum, which is dedicated to connecting people to the Bhutanese rural past through exhibition of items and artifacts used in rural households and then depart to Punakha, leaving Thimphu the road climbs steeply through a forest of pine and cedar, festooned with hanging lichen high up near Dochola pass (3050 m). This pass often offers panoramic views of the Himalayan mountain ranges. After stopping for tea and the view, we descend along a series of hairpin bends to the fertile valley of Punakha. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 5: Punakha – Gangtey - Wangdue

After breakfast drive through the small town of Punakha and view the Punakha Dzong, winter seat of the Je Khenpo and ancient capital of Bhutan, remarkably located between the rivers of the Mo (Female) the Chu and Pho (Male) Chu. The dzong is open to visitors only in summer when the Je Khenpo and the Monk Body are in Thimphu and then continue our drive to Gangtey, Gangtey lies towards the east of Punakha and Wangdue on the flanks of the Black Mountains. There is an old monastery of Gangtey Gompa dating back to the 17th century. A few kilometers past the Gompa on the valley floor are the fascinating valley of Phobjikha.

The gently sloping hillsides of Phobjikha is described as "the most beautiful valley in the Himalayas". This is the winter home of black-necked cranes that migrate from the arid plains of Tibetan Plateau in the north to pass winter in milder and lower climate. We continue our drive back till we reach Wangdue. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 6: Wangdue – Thimphu

After breakfast visit Wangdue Dzong, one of the major towns and district headquarters of Western Bhutan. We make a short stop to view the Wangdue Phodrang Dzong dramatically located on the spur of a hill at the confluence of the Tsang Chhu and Dang Chhu and then drive back to Thimphu via Dochola pass. The evening takes a stroll around the street of Thimphu. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 7: Thimphu – Haa – Paro

After breakfast drive over the confluence to the forbidden valley of Haa (it was closed to tourism until 2002). It is the last valley of Bhutan bordering with autonomous Tibet. Visit the Dzong of Haa and also the temples of Haap Chhundu (guardian deity of the valley) and drive back to Paro via Chelela pass, one of the highest point (3,780m)of the motorable road in Bhutan. From here you will be able to view some of the highest mountains of Bhutan from here and the scenery is magnificent. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 8: Paro – Departure to Sikkim border.

Early breakfast served at your hotel and then drive to Sikkim Border for 8 nights 9 Days tour to Darjeeling, Sikkim, and Kalingpong

-End of Services from Bhutan side-

Himalayan Three Jewels Tour (7 Night / 8 Days) Darjeeling / Gangtok / Pelling

Day 9: Arrival Phinjuling (Bhutan and Sikkim boarder)

Arrive Phinjuling and Indian Agent will pick up. After arrival, your journeys proceed to beautiful hill town Kalimpong. Stay overnight at Hotel Holumba.

Day 10: AM sightseeing in Kalimpong and PM Transfer to Gangtok

Stay overnight at Hotel Anola in Gangtok.

Day 11: Whole day sight seeing in Gangtok

Gangtok literarily means ‘Hill Top’ was established in 1716. Interesting sightseeing areas are Enchay Monastery (212 years old) built on a site blessed by Lama Druptab Karpo, a tantric master known for his power of flying, the Directorate of Tibetology, Chorten etc. In the afternoon visit to Rumtek Monastery (24 km.) built in 1717 AD. Commissioned by his holiness the 16th incarnate of the original Gyalwa Karmapa of Tibet and head of the Kagyupa sect of Buddhism, this lavishly built monastery is said to be a replica of the Tsurphu Monastery in Tibet.

Day 12: Gangtok to Pemyangtse – Pelling (West Sikkim)

After breakfast transfer to Pemyangtse - Pelling (112 km.) 5-6 hours a calm and quiet hamlet on the lap of the Himalaya via; Samdrupst and Timi tea garden and stay overnight at hotel New.

Day 13: Sight seeing in and around Pelling

Early morning short trail to Sangachoeling Monastery where you will get the enchanting view of Mt. Kanchendzonga Range (The 3rd highest mountain in the world) from the top of the monastery. After breakfast visit one of the significant monasteries in Sikkim, Pemyangste; The Royal Monastery (1705 A. D.). After lunch, short drive to Kecheopalri Lake which is called by the locals is “Wishing Lake” surrounded by the dense forest. Drive back to Pelling and overnight at Hotel New.

Day 14: Pemyangtse – Pelling (West Sikkim) to Darjeeling

After breakfast your journey proceeds to Queen of Hill stations; Darjeeling (112km- 5 hours drive). Evening free to gather experience about this town which is world famous for its tea specially called the “Champagne of the East” and stay overnight at Hotel Dekeling.

Day 15: Sight seeing in Darjeeling

Early morning drive to Tiger Hill to enjoy the breathtaking view of color changes during sunrise over snowcapped peaks of Mt. Kanchendzonga Range visit Batasia Loop, Ghoom Monastery, Tibetan Self-Help Refugee Centre, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park. Enter into the world famous tea gardens to watch the tea plantations. In the evening walk around the Mall Area, the heart of the town. Stay overnight at Hotel Dekeling.

Day 16: Depart from Darjeeling and drive 6-7 hrs back to Bhadrapur Airport via Rangpo, Siliguri and Jalpaiguri.